



IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7617 (YOSE PM)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

Dear Yosemite Friends:

On behalf of the National Park Service, I am pleased to present the *Rehabilitation of the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project Environmental Assessment*. The Yosemite Valley Loop Road has been the primary road system for Yosemite Valley since it was first constructed as a stage coach road in 1872. Annual maintenance and spot repairs to the road have been made, however, a thorough repair of the roadway and drainage structures has not been performed for many decades. Heavy traffic and naturally occurring erosion, flooding and rock slides have contributed to the urgent need for a complete rehabilitation of the Yosemite Valley Loop Road and the associated drainage system.

Public and agency participation has been a key element throughout this planning process. In the summer of 2005, Yosemite National Park held informal public scoping meetings and conducted a 30-day Public Scoping period to solicit ideas and concerns from park visitors, staff, American Indian groups, conservation and park partner organizations, gateway communities, and government agencies. The National Park Service reviewed these public scoping comments and identified a range of suggestions and concerns which were used to develop the alternatives for the *Rehabilitation of the Yosemite Loop Road Project Environmental Assessment*.

There will be a 30-day public comment period on the environmental assessment. If the environmental assessment and a Finding of No Significant Impact are approved, rehabilitation of the Yosemite Valley Loop Road would begin in the fall 2006, and be completed in the fall 2007.

We appreciate your interest in this planning effort and welcome your participation. Comments must be submitted in writing by January 6, 2006, and may be sent to:

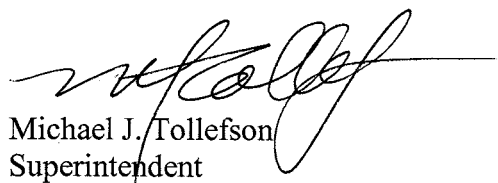
Mail: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
ATTN: Rehabilitation of the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

Fax: 209/379-1294
Email: Yose_Planning@nps.gov

The National Park Service will host a public Open House on November 30, 2005, (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center East auditorium. Members of the planning team will be available to answer questions and provide more information regarding the rehabilitation on the Yosemite Valley Loop Road.

Information about this project can be reviewed online at www.nps.gov/yose/planning. To request a hard copy or CD of the environmental assessment, refer to the information directly above or phone 209/379-1365.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Tollefson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael J. Tollefson
Superintendent